

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Yasuhiko SHIINA et al. **Mail Stop PCT**  
Appl. No: : Not Yet Assigned PCT Branch  
I. A. Filed : September 24, 2004  
(U.S. National Phase of PCT/JP2004/014457)  
For : METHOD OF DETECTING OR DIFFERENTIATING RHEUMATOID  
ARTHRITIS AND METHOD OF DETERMINING STAGE OF DISEASE  
OR DEGREE OF DYSFUNCTION WITH REGARD TO RHEUMATOID  
ARTHRITIS

**CLAIM OF PRIORITY**

Commissioner for Patents  
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office  
Customer Service Window, Mail Stop PCT  
Randolph Building  
401 Dulany Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314

Sir:

Applicant hereby claims the right of priority granted pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 119 and 365 based upon Japanese Application No. 2003-336438, filed September 26, 2003. The International Bureau already should have sent a certified copy of the Japanese application to the United States designated office. If the certified copy has not arrived, please contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,  
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